

COLUMBUS, OHIO | JAN 16, 2008
CURRENTLY: 33° PARTLY CLOUDY



SEARCH:

Choose category:

Dispatch.com - ALL

Search



HOME PAGE

News

- Metro & State
- Dispatch Politics.com
- Community News
- National / World
- Insight | Weather
- Editorials
- Columnists
- Blogs
- Stahler cartoons
- School closings
- Corrections
- Lottery | Obituaries
- Health | Science
- Education
- Faith and Values
- Docs Rate Docs
- Special Reports
- Great Schools
- The Hot Issue
- Search the archive
- Electronic Edition
- Offbeat News
- AP PodCasts
- Dispatch Español

Sports

- BuckeyeXtra.com
- OSU football
- OSU basketball (M)
- OSU basketball (W)
- Other OSU sports
- Writers' blogs
- Bob Hunter columns
- Rob Oller columns
- Ray Stein's mailbox
- Blue Jackets
- Bengals | Browns
- Fantasy football
- Cavaliers
- Auto racing
- High school sports
- High school AOTW
- Reds | Indians
- Crew | Clippers
- Law & order
- Golf | Outdoors
- Destroyers
- Live odds
- Game matchups

Business

- Stocks
- Personal Finance
- Business Wire
- Salary.com

Life & Arts

- The Flip Side
- WeekENDER
- You Tell Us
- Blogs
- Community Datebook
- Travel
- Dispatch Kitchen
- Home & Garden
- Your Garden | Pets
- NOW! for kids
- USA Weekend
- Horoscopes
- Games & Puzzles
- Wallpaper
- Hot Issue
- Game On!
- Slide / Video Shows
- Hello, Columbus
- Upload Pet Photos
- Contests

Conveyance fee on home sales is doubled

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

ROBERT VITALE
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

People who sell their homes will pay twice as much in fees to Franklin County under an increase approved yesterday during a heated county commissioners meeting.

Democrats Mary Jo Kilroy and Paula Brooks voted for the extra charge, which will double, for instance, the \$150 paid by the person who sells a \$150,000 home. The so-called conveyance fee, applied to all real-estate sales, will be charged at a rate of \$2 for every \$1,000 of the sale price. The fee now is \$1 per \$1,000, among the lowest in Ohio.

The increase takes effect Jan. 12.

Republican Dewey Stokes, who also opposed a half-cent sales tax increase approved in late July, voted against the plan. He said that he agreed with county Auditor Joe Testa, a fellow Republican, who said last week that the county is collecting more than enough in taxes and fees.

The increase will raise \$6.8 million yearly if real-estate sales match 2005 estimates.

Kilroy and Brooks vowed to use the money for housing programs and services for the homeless, an idea endorsed by the Columbus Board of Realtors and other groups that previously had opposed an increase.

"We need to build up the low- and moderate-income housing in this community," Brooks said. "This is the way to do it."

Stokes and Testa, however, said an estimated \$5.2 million increase in county property-tax collections for 2006 made the conveyance-fee increase unnecessary. That money, based on a revaluation of all property in the county to reflect a booming real-estate market, was certified by the state last week.

The two sides argued yesterday not only over the fee increase, but also over whose position on it should be called conservative.

Testa and Stokes said they supported spending \$6.8 million to address affordable housing and homelessness, which is a \$4 million increase over current county funding for the Community Shelter Board and the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County. But they want the money to come from what the county already collects.

Both are up for re-election in 2006.

The Democrats, however, said the \$5.2 million in extra property tax is still subject to appeals by owners and changes by the county Board of Revision.

"I'm very reluctant to spend what we don't have," Kilroy said. "We need to take a conservative outlook at our income and a realistic outlook at our future needs."

Brooks, who has blamed the county's budget problems on past Republican majorities, said Testa and Stokes advocated a "return to the same old spend, spend, spend days." She said Testa's budget estimates contained the same overly optimistic projections that got the county into fiscal trouble to begin with.

Stokes, the last member of what was an all-Republican slate of commissioners as recently as 2000, originally supported a fee increase and helped broker the compromise that won the Board of Realtors' support. He said he changed his mind after learning about the extra \$5.2 million coming in through property taxes.

"How is it conservative to raise the sales tax and then turn around and raise the conveyance fee?" he said.

Franklin County faced a \$55 million deficit when planning for the 2006 budget began. The half-cent sales-tax increase will raise an estimated \$88 million a year, while the conveyance fee increase and higher property values will bring in \$12 million.

Officials said the money will close the budget gap and rebuild cash reserves that have been used to cover unbalanced budgets since 2002. Kilroy said the county also faces big expenses for a new courts building and changes to alleviate jail overcrowding.

Testa said money exists for all of that.

SHOPPING COLUMBUS
Search Ads and Grocery + Local Coupons
 Go!

COMMUNITY HEADLINES

[Dublin Methodist Hospital slideshow](#)

[Warner hired as Norwich Township administrator](#)

[Steady play puts Petke among area elite](#)

[No beer sales for billiards business](#)

[Reynoldsburg eager to](#)
Or [click here](#), to read more headlines from your community.

Brought to you by:



JOBS CARS REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIEDS

Find a job...

By keyword **Go!**

Advanced search

- Top jobs
- Featured employers
- Job Clips Video
- Jobs at Dispatch Media Group
- Career Advice from Dear Sam
- Place an Ad

TOP JOBS

Entry Level Needed

Columbus, OH
Source - Dispatch Classifieds

Health Advisors

Columbus, OH
Healthways

SALES

Columbus, OH

SPECIAL SECTIONS

- Your Health Source
- Business Marketplace PDF
- Introducing Dublin Methodist Hospital PDF



"You've got money coming out of your ears and you're still raising new taxes in this county," he said. "It's unconscionable what these folks have done."

- [Blogs](#)
- [Today's events](#)
- [Movie times](#)
- [Events this weekend](#)
- [Find a restaurant](#)
- [Submit an event](#)

[fvitale@dispatch.com?](mailto:fvitale@dispatch.com)

Services

- [Register](#)
- [Edit Profile](#) | [Help!](#)
- [Make us your homepage](#)
- [Sign up for newsletters](#)
- [Other sites](#)
- [Newspaper in Education](#)
- [Dispatch Events](#)
- [Jobs at The Dispatch](#)
- [Celebrations! info](#)
- [Dispatch Media Kit](#)
- [Text version](#)
- [RSS feeds](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Dispatch online store](#)
- [Subscribe to the paper](#)
- [Manage newspaper](#)
- [Newspaper FAQs](#)



FIND IT FAST!

Classifieds

- [Find a Home](#)
- [Rentals](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Pets](#)
- [Place an Ad](#)
- [Columbus Cars](#)
- [Columbus Jobs](#)
- [Video Job Clips](#)

News

- [Metro & State](#)
- [Community News](#)
- [National / World](#)
- [Insight](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [School closings](#)
- [Corrections](#)
- [Lottery](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Docs Rate Docs](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Special Reports](#)
- [Great Schools](#)
- [The Hot Issue](#)
- [Search the archive](#)
- [Electronic Edition](#)
- [Offbeat News](#)
- [AP PodCasts](#)
- [Dispatch Español](#)

Sports

- [NCAA Tournament](#)
- [OSU Football](#)
- [OSU Basketball \(M\)](#)
- [OSU Basketball \(W\)](#)
- [Other OSU Sports](#)
- [BuckeyeXtra.com](#)
- [Writers' blogs](#)
- [High School Sports](#)
- [Blue Jackets](#)
- [Crew](#)
- [Clippers](#)
- [Destroyers](#)
- [Bengals](#)
- [Browns](#)
- [Reds](#)
- [Indians](#)
- [Cavaliers](#)
- [Auto Racing](#)
- [Golf](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [Live Odds](#)
- [Game Matchups](#)

Business

- [Stocks](#)
- [Personal Finance](#)
- [2006 Tax Guide](#)
- [Business Wire](#)
- [Salary.com](#)

Life & Arts

- [The Flip Side](#)
- [WeekEnder](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Community Datebook](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Dispatch Kitchen](#)
- [Home & Garden](#)
- [Your Garden](#)
- [Pets](#)
- [NOW! for kids](#)
- [USA Weekend](#)
- [Horoscopes](#)
- [Games & Puzzles](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Hot Issue](#)
- [Game On!](#)
- [Slide / Video Shows](#)
- [Special Sections](#)
- [Upload Pet Photos](#)
- [RSS feeds](#)
- [Contests](#)

Fun and Games

- [Horoscopes](#)
- [Crossword puzzle](#)
- [Crossword Extra](#)
- [Contests](#)

Interact

- [Blogs](#)
- [The Hot Issue](#)
- [Submit a Pet Photo](#)
- [RSS feeds](#)
- [Hello, Columbus](#)

Related Sites

- [Dispatch Extra](#)
- [BuckeyeXtra](#)
- [OhioElects](#)
- [WBNS 10TV](#)
- [1460 The Fan](#)
- [Mix 97.1](#)
- [This Week Community Newspapers](#)
- [Ohio News Network](#)
- [Dispatch Espanol](#)
- [Columbus Alive](#)
- [Columbus Parent Magazine](#)
- [NIE - Newspaper in Education](#)
- [Dispatch Classifieds](#)
- [Columbus Real Estate](#)
- [Columbus Cars](#)
- [Columbus Jobs](#)

Services

- [Register](#)
- [Edit Profile](#)
- [Help!](#)
- [Make us your homepage](#)
- [Sign up for newsletters](#)
- [Other sites](#)
- [Newspaper in Education](#)
- [Dispatch Events](#)
- [Jobs at The Dispatch](#)
- [Celebrations! info](#)
- [Dispatch Media Kit](#)
- [Text version](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Dispatch online store](#)
- [Subscribe to the paper](#)
- [Manage newspaper](#)
- [Newspaper FAQs](#)

[WBNS \(10TV\)](#) | [Ohio News Network](#) | [Columbus Alive](#) | [1460 The Fan](#) | [Mix 97.1](#) | [BuckeyeXtra](#) | [ThisWeek Community Newspapers](#) | [TheBAG](#) | [Columbus Parent Magazine](#) | [Dispatch Español](#) |

©2008, The Columbus Dispatch, Reproduction prohibited

[Home](#) | [Site map](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Advertise with Dispatch.com](#) | [Help!](#) |